Benvolio plays an important role in this play; he’s a Montague and a cousin of Romeo. “Part, fools! Put up your swords. You know not what you do.” (1.1.65-66) Benvolio’s has the qualities of kind, non violent, and caring. By these first lines you can already tell that he is a peacekeeper. The tragedy of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare is about two lovers falling love with the opposing families. Throughout the play conflicts occur because of their forbidden love. Benvolio is usually there when there are fights between the Montagues and the Capulets, but he is always the person that tries to stop the fight. Benvolio makes an effort to defuse violence in public places. When fights do occur he tries his best to terminate them. Sometimes his attempt of peacekeeping fails, but the fact that he tries to stop a fight makes his character more of a pacifist.

Benvolio is one of the most caring characters in Romeo and Juliet. He cares about his family and never wants to start a fight. In Act 3 Scene 1, Benvolio begs Mercutio to go home because of the hot weather, and hot weather tends to make people angry. Benvolio was afraid for Mercutio that he would get hurt if he gets into a fight with a Capulet. “I pray thee, good Mercutio, let’s retire. The day is hot; the Capulets, abroad; and if we meet we shall not ’scape a brawl, for now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.” Not only does Benvolio care about people getting hurt, he also cares about their feelings. When Romeo was crying over Rosaline he tried to make Romeo feel better. “I’ll pay that doctrine or else die in debt.” (1.1.247) Benvolio was telling Romeo to forget Roseline and move on. But Romeo doesn’t know how to move on so Benvolio is there to help him. Even if Benvolio dies he would still owe him the favor.

In Act Three Scene One Benvolio gave a long speech telling the Prince what he witness in the fight between Tybalt and Romeo. He told the truth and didn’t exaggerate Tybalt’s fault. He didn’t defend his family to make Romeo’s punishment less harsh or make Tybalt’s fault worst than it already was. Instead he told the truth, most people would lie just to defend their families, but Benvolio didn’t, proving him the most honest character in the play. Throughout the play Benvolio’s characteristics doesn’t change. He is still the person that keeps the peace and stops fights in public places. Although he is one of the main characters in the play, he is not heard of after the death of Mercutio.

Word count: 447